

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner.

Upon entry of the instant Amendment, Claims 5, 11-14, and 16-18 will be all of the claims presently pending before the Examiner.

Instantly, Claims 5, 11-14, and 16-18 are amended. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 15, and 19-24 are canceled without prejudice. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by the present amendments. Support for the amendments can be found generally throughout the Applicants' disclosure.

The Office is respectfully requested to consider the following remarks.

A. Specification Informalities

The Examiner has noted the lack of a Brief Description of the Drawings section. Applicants have amended the Specification, as provided above, to fully comply with this requirement.

B. 35 U.S.C. 112, First Paragraph

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected as failing to comply with the written description requirement based on the recitation of "monodisperse adsorber" and "heterodispersed adsorber," respectively. Instantly, Claims 19 and 20 are cancelled. However, to the extent presently amended Claims 17 and 18 now recite mono- and hetero-disperse, the following comments are offered.

As discussed in the Specification, the use of the terms "monodisperse" and "heterodispersed" is a description of an ion exchanger's (or adsorber's) bead sizes – such beads forming the material of the ion exchanger or adsorber. In light of this fact, Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to recite, *inter alia*, a plurality of crosslinked polystyrene polymer beads having a monodispersed bead size and a heterodispersed bead size, respectively. As provided, the use of mono-dispersed and hetero-dispersed

clearly relates to the polymer bead size. Moreover, the formation of hetero-disperse beads and mono-disperse beads is clearly provided and explained in Applicants' Specification, e.g., Pg. 2, Line 4 and Pg. 3, Line 8, respectively. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the written description requirement under section 112 has been fully satisfied.

C. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13 and 14 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form so as to include all the limitations of the base claim from which it depends along with any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended Claims 13 and 14 to be in independent form and include the subject matter of the base claim and all the intervening claims. (Claim 13 is the combination of Claims 13, 1, 21, 23 and Claim 14 is the combination of claims 14, 1, 3, and 24.) The remaining non-cancelled claims have all been amended to depend from and thus include the limitations of independent claim 13 or 14.

In light of the above, Applicants request the withdrawal of the present objections along with the allowance of the amended claims.

D. Claim Rejections

As explained in section C above, all the pending claims are now directed toward allowable subject matter. The remaining rejections are thus moot in view of the present cancellation and/or amendment of the claims.

E. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 13 and 14 are fully distinguishable over the applied art and are thus in condition for allowance. By virtue of dependence from what are believed to be allowable independent Claims 13 and 14, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 5, 11, 12, and

16-18 are also presently allowable. Notice to the effect is earnestly solicited.

If there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including any fees for an extension of time or those under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17, which may be required by this paper, and/or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2527.

Respectfully,

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